

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for awarding a player of a casino game comprising:

providing a hidden bonus feature to the player ~~in~~ during play of the casino game, the casino game during said play not disclosing information to the player as to ~~what~~ when the hidden bonus feature is provided and/or how the player ~~responds~~ is to respond to the hidden bonus feature,

receiving a single response input in the casino game from the player ~~after~~ providing ~~the~~ to said provided hidden bonus feature,

delivering a bonus award in the casino game to the player when the response from the player is correct.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs when one or a predetermined combination of game symbols appears in the casino game during play of the casino game.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs when a predetermined event occurs in the casino game.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs when a hidden bonus feature display randomly occurs in the casino game.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature occurs randomly.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the existence of a hidden bonus feature is displayed on the casino game.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the bonus award is independent of the play of the casino game, thereby affording players who know how to correctly respond to said hidden bonus feature a higher expected return than players who don't do not know how to correctly respond to the hidden bonus feature.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the response is correct when an input is received from the player within a predetermined time period.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 8 wherein the faster a player inputs a correct answer in the predetermined time period, the greater the bonus award.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 8 wherein resuming play of the casino game occurs after the predetermined time frame times out.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 8 wherein play of the casino game continues during the predetermined time frame.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 wherein if the player provides a response for play of the casino game prior to providing a response for the hidden bonus feature, then the predetermined time frame immediately times out.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the casino game is a bonus game and wherein the bonus game is played in conjunction with an underlying game on a gaming machine.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the casino game is played in a gaming machine.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein providing the hidden bonus feature originates in a controller of a progressive system connected to the casino game.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein playing of the casino game by the player occurs over the Internet.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the hidden bonus feature is an animated sequence.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of claim 17 wherein the hidden bonus animated sequence is a variation of animated sequences appearing in the casino game.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 18 wherein the response from the player is the player touching the hidden bonus animated sequence appearing on a touch screen display.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the hidden bonus feature is a graphic.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 20 wherein the graphic is a variation of graphics appearing in the casino game.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the player is cued as to the hidden bonus feature.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the response from the player is the player touching the hidden bonus feature appearing on a touch screen display.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the hidden bonus feature is provided at the same point in the casino game.

Claim 25 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A method for awarding a player of a casino game comprising:

providing a hidden bonus feature to the player during play of the casino game, without warning the player, the casino game having player instructions that do not disclose how the player is to respond to the hidden bonus feature,

receiving ~~an~~ a single input to the provided hidden bonus feature from the player within a predetermined time period after providing the hidden bonus feature,

delivering a bonus award in the casino game to the player when the response from the player occurs within the predetermined time period, wherein the delivered bonus award is independent of the play of the casino game, game and the play of the casino game is independent of the provided the hidden bonus feature, the received input from the player and the delivered bonus award.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (currently amended): The method of claim 25 wherein the casino game is an underlying game on a gaming machine having a casino bonus game.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method for awarding a player of a casino bonus game, the casino bonus game played by the player in conjunction with an underlying game on a gaming machine, the method comprising:

randomly displaying a hidden bonus feature to the player during play of the casino bonus game without warning the player, the casino bonus game and the underlying game on the gaming machine having player instructions that do not disclose how the player is to respond to the hidden bonus feature,

receiving ~~an~~ a single input to the provided hidden bonus feature from the player within a predetermined time period after displaying the hidden bonus feature,

providing a bonus award in the casino bonus game to the player ~~when the response from the player~~ wherein the provided bonus award is independent of any other awards from play of the casino bonus game and the underlying gaming machine,

resuming play of the casino bonus game when the hidden bonus feature is over and/or the response from the player is not correct.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The method of claim 28 wherein the hidden bonus feature further displays a bonus value for the bonus award.